

East Coker Society Newsletter



January 2016

Free Issue No 161

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East Coker Society News

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

We are pleased to report that our annual Winter Fayre held on Saturday 24 October 2015 was fully booked with a very interesting range of stalls. This meant that we were treated to an impressive range of goods well in advance of the festive season. It is always heart-warming to see our regular supporters attend this popular event, and we are pleased to report that the £760 raised will help to finance the ongoing production of this Newsletter and future village events. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Fayre so successful.

For those who continue to receive a paper copy of our Newsletter, please remember that this is only possible as a result of the work of Janet and Martin Wells, and our team of reliable distributors, who venture out in all weathers every three months. We have had some success in encouraging further email and web-site take up, but there is scope for much more, especially as the majority of households have entered the digital age! Please make it one of your New Year resolutions to receive your Newsletter electronically, so that East Coker Society can reduce this significant cost and effort. You can do this by contacting our Editor, Lesley Lindsay at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com giving your full name and postal address, which will not be disclosed to anyone else. Thank you.

Sarah Owen Secretary

VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY – PLEASE USE IT

The Village Events Diary is kept at the Courtyard Café. **Please put forthcoming village events in the Diary to avoid dates clashing.** Thank you.

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER 400 CLUB

Autumn draw

£100 Mr D Fellows; £50 Mrs K McIver; £40 Cdr P Pisani; £30 Mrs Olive Sharman; £20 Mike Weston; £15 Mr Barry Foot; £10 Mrs Roberta Edgar

The 400 Club has been very pleased to send a cheque for £300 to St Margaret's Hospice.

Christmas Draw

£100 Mrs Alison Charles; £50 Mrs Ruth Waite; £40 Sarah Owen; £30 Arthur Rees; £20 Mrs A Cowley; £15 Brigadier C Robertson; £10 Mrs C Mornement

If anyone would like to join the 400 Club, the annual subs are £20. This is paid (preferably) by quarterly payments of £5 by Bankers order. Please contact Mary Ashley 86226, Arthur Rees 862828 or Mike Weston 862472. A reminder, please, to those members who pay by cash or cheque that the 2016 subs will now be due. Thank you.

Mike Weston

EAST COKER SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

The Bowls Club meets every Tuesday evening 7.30pm - 9.30pm and Friday afternoons 2.30pm - 4.30pm in the East Coker Hall.

We are a friendly club and are looking for experienced and new players to join us. Tuition can be given to those wishing it, and bowls can be provided for your initial practice. Why not come and see for yourself. There is no age limit for adults.

We also have a junior section, and are looking for young players, minimum age 9 years up to 18. For information regarding the junior section, please contact Mervyn Westlake 863227. For other information, call George Dudden 864222.

D Farrant, Club Chairman

FILMFLIX – FILMS AT EAST COKER HALL

The committee members of the East Coker Hall have been approached with a view to showing films at the Hall. It has been decided to run a trial period to ascertain whether this is something the residents of East Coker would be interested in. Initially, films will be shown on Saturday 13 February and Thursday 24 March.

The first film to be shown will be **Suffragette** on Saturday 13 February at 7.30pm. Doors will open at 7.00pm. Ticket price £6 per person.

"The remarkable and thrilling untold true story of the real foot soldiers of the Suffragette movement, Sarah Gavron's fiery film about the fight for women's suffrage is far from genteel. Technically qualifying as a period drama its story takes place in 1912 and 1913, and its sets and costumes vividly and convincingly evoke a bygone age."

Actors Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter, Brendan Gleeson, Anne-Marie Duff, Meryl Streep, Ben Whishaw, Romola Garai, **Director** Sarah Gavron. **Rating** 12A.

EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

The event in October for St Margaret's raised £212, and in November Children in Need raised £270.

The forthcoming events are:

- **Friday 29 January – Help for Heroes**
- **Friday 26 February – The Lifeboats**

Please come along to the Forester's Arms, between 10.00am and 12.00pm, and give your continued support to all these deserving causes. Many thanks to Charlotte and all the staff at the Forester's for the support they give to these popular village get-togethers.

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313; Penny Marpole 863055

THANK YOU – Children in Need

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Children in Need coffee morning at the Forester's Arms in November. Your generosity raised £280 and with money from a Book Stall, at the Winter Fayre, which raised £52, we were able to send £332 towards this worthwhile charity.

Every penny goes towards supporting UK children in the main. All administrative and other costs are met from investments, and that is the reason we choose to support this charity. The running total over the past seven years is £2,355.20 for which we thank you very much.

We would like to take this opportunity also to acknowledge all the hard work Penny, Derek, Cherry and Martyn put into these events every month and, of course, the Forester's Arms for allowing these charity events to take place.

Don & Barbs Nicol

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

East Coker Poetry Group meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Helyar Arms (Apple Loft or skittle alley). Our website - www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE HELYAR ARMS



Open 7 days a week

Monday to Wednesday

11am – 3pm 5.30pm to 11pm

Thursday to Saturday

11am – 3pm 5.30pm to 12 midnight

Sunday

12 noon – 3pm 7pm to 10.30pm

There will be extended hours over the weekend after the refurbishments are completed

Check out our website for updates

www.thehelyararms.com or Call on 01935 862332

Email at paddyandclaire@thehelyararms.com

The Helyar Arms is open again with new landlords.

Claire and Patrick are resident hosts who are welcoming and friendly and the pub has been restored to a clean and warm environment where you can enjoy real ales, lagers, cider and Guinness with a great selection of fine wines and bar nibbles.

The pub will undergo a full renovation in the coming months and enjoy a lick of paint inside and out, but will sadly have to close briefly whilst the works are carried out.

Until then the kitchen is sadly closed, but once works are completed the Helyar Arms will, we hope, become the 'Go To' inn where you will enjoy a good drink, great food and a comfortable place to stay with great company and a welcoming atmosphere.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER

On Saturday 17 October 2015 the Branch Coffee Morning was held at the Commemoration Hall, West Coker, sincere thanks to all who supported this event. We had a wonderful supply of cakes, produce and raffle prizes. Over £300 was raised for the Poppy Appeal; this was made possible by the tremendous support and help of all our members and friends on the day.

A presentation was made to the family of the late David Reid MBE for his dedicated service to the Poppy Appeal and RBL since 1946.

Sincere thanks to all who organised and assisted at the Remembrance Service at St Michael's, East Coker. Without a vicar, things were possibly going to be a little difficult but Judith Shaw led the service so well, we didn't realise he was not there, thank-you Judith. Thanks also to Jackie Clough for introducing us to David Shaw (no relation to Judith) who gave a very interesting talk. Those of you present will now be aware where the Battle of Waterloo took place: not on a platform at Waterloo Station!! Isn't it wonderful what comes from the mouths of children? The church collection amounted to £515.47.

East Coker District 2015 Poppy Appeal: to date our total has reached £7801.25, a big Thank-You to all our volunteer door to door collectors, from East Chinnock through to Barwick and Stoford, and to all the local businesses for allowing collecting boxes to be placed on their premises.

"Where does your money go"? The Legion provides practical, emotional and financial support to all members of our Armed Forces community.

Our welfare services include: 1. Support for injured personnel throughout their rehabilitation. 2. Six Legion Care Homes with four dementia care units. 3. Careers advice for ex-Service people. 4. Poppy Calls handy van service. 5. Emergency grants and loans. 6. Seaside Poppy Breaks Centres for Service families.

If you are aware of any ex/serving personnel or dependant who requires assistance, the Legion can be contacted via – Freephone helpline **0800 802 8080**. Online support – www.support.britishlegion.org.uk

Find the nearest Pop-In Centre – www.rbl.org.uk/popin

The RBL was founded in 1921 to help men returning from WW1 with life changing injuries, struggling to find employment, and bereaved Service families facing financial hardship. Ninety-five years later, we still help people facing exactly the same issues, and in 2016 as we commemorate the 100th anniversaries of the "Battle of the Somme" and the "Battle of Jutland" let us not forget that help is still needed.

Thank-you all for your continued support.

Date for diaries Friday 15 April Cheese & Wine evening 7.30pm East Coker Hall.

David Holland. Chairman 862782

Secretary Marilyn Smith.863944

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TIME TO SHARE

Monday 18 January	Music with Roy Hodder & team	
Monday 1 February	A Vet's Life with Bill Petheram	Monday 15 February
Monday 29 February	Take Note	Monday 14 March
Monday 21 March	Easter Bazaar	Monday 4 April
		Tai Chi
		Musical Memories
		Top Food Tips

See you soon. Sandra Snelling 862162 mobile 07717 723448 email sandra.snelling@googlemail.com

EAST COKER PLAYERS Happy New Year to you all

We would like to thank everyone who helped with, and came to see Cleopatra, we hoped you enjoyed it as much as we did performing for you. We have received some lovely comments. We are already in the early stages of planning the next one with Ian White, as director.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of two past members last year. John Bryan will be remembered for his monologues and the writing our 2001 pantomime Aladdin, taking the role of Abanazar. Brian Vaux will be remembered by many readers of the Newsletter for his performances in the early days of the Players especially in the 'Seven ages of Man' and the original sand-dance.

The Players now have a Facebook page. We will shortly be posting details of our meetings and productions together with some photographs of Cleopatra. Take a look.

New members are always welcome. Minimum age 8 years. Yearly subscription Adults £7, Children £3.

East Coker Players are members of Child Safe.

For further details, contact Anne Hartley 862060 or Hazel Giddings 429163.

SAVE EAST COKER

After the success of the Auction of Promises in October, we are beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel, and we aim to repay all monies in 2016.

I am sure everybody will be pleased to hear this as it has been a hard slog, and we have had to call on all of you to help us with so many things over the past few years. We are an impressive bunch of people in East Coker, and certainly not to be messed with. Thank you so much for all your efforts. It means we can sit a little more comfortably at the moment with the future of our village.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 14 February	Valentine's Brunch at East Coker Hall, 9.30am – 12.30pm. Tickets available soon - 862854
Saturday 4 June	Wandering Supper – details in next edition
Saturday 9 July	CokerFest 2016 at Longlands.

Best wishes to you all for a Happy and Prosperous 2016 and all our debts paid!

Sandra 862162

t. 01935 862162

m. 07717 723448

e. sandra.snelling@googlemail.com

BONFIRES

Please consider your neighbours before having a bonfire in the middle of the day. Also, think of the direction of the wind and don't allow damp material to smoulder. Bear in mind that smoke may linger, on still days. Later in the afternoon allows enjoying sitting in the sun, washing to be dried, and gardening to be done without having to retreat indoors from bonfire smoke and falling ash. Also it is very important to check before lighting that no creatures, such as hedgehogs, have taken up residence.

EAST COKER READING GROUP

We are a group of eight people who meet once a month, usually on a Tuesday evening, to talk about the book we have been reading the previous month – unless the book was not very interesting, in which case we talk about anything that comes to mind! As the Library charges Reading Groups a monthly fee we, in turn, charge a fee of £1 per month to each member. We are a very easy-going group – if you don't like the book, don't feel obliged to read it! The discussions are always interesting - even on the odd occasion when the book hardly gets a mention! During the course of 2015 we read books such as "Never let me go" by Kazuo Ishiguro, "Old Filth" by Jane Gardam and "A man called Ove" by Fredrik Backman. If you are considering joining the group or wish to have more details of the books we read and what we do please do contact Kevin Chapman on 07812 726853 or 422594 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk

BURTON BOOK CLUB

We are a group of ten people who meet once a month, usually on a Wednesday afternoon for one hour. We currently meet over coffee/tea at Goose Slade Farm Tea Shop. In addition to the £1 per month fee for books, we also put £2 into a 'kitty' to pay for drinks and, when funds allow, have a 'free' month. Over the course of 2015 we have read books such as "Quartet in Autumn" by Barbara Pym, "The Time Keeper" by Mitch Albom and Thomas Hardy's "Far from the Madding Crowd". Otherwise what is said about the East Coker Reading Group holds good for the Burton Book Club and the same contact details apply; Kevin Chapman on 07812 726853 or 422594, or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk



POT LUCK PLANTS

A constantly changing selection of seasonal bedding plants & perennials raised & lovingly tended in East Coker.

For early 2016, cheerful pots of miniature narcissi, iris, grape hyacinths, primroses & primulas.

Gift pots with a selection of seasonal plants can be made to order, making beautiful, long-lasting presents.

Pot Luck Plants can be found at Goose Slade Farm Shop, Halstock Shop & Hamish's Farm shop.

or

Visits to the polytunnel to see for yourself!
Enquiries, contact Kate on 07796991592.

EAST COKER DISCUSSION GROUP

The Discussion Group has now been running for one year. There are currently just four people taking part and we would ideally like to have one or two more. The purpose of the group is to share and explore ideas and beliefs. It is not to provide a platform for members to promote their own ideas and beliefs with the aim of persuading others of them. We hope to explore the political, cultural, moral, religious and practical issues which underpin particular ideas and beliefs, with the aim of equipping ourselves better to understand them.

The Group is about exploring ideas, not debating them in an adversarial way. We intend the atmosphere to be supportive and 'unpressured'. Meetings are expected to last for about an hour, but with the option of continuing for a further half hour should enough members wish.

Would anyone interested in becoming a member of the group please contact John Field on 07890 375780 or email jcmfield@hotmail.com We tend to meet towards the end of the month, on a Thursday, commencing at 11.00am (but we are reasonably flexible!). Topics discussed over this year include 'The state of democracy in Britain', 'Is the Citizen's Wage feasible?', 'Freedom of Speech', 'How do we/ our country/ our world deal with ISIS?'

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB


During the last three months of 2015 members of the Gardening Club enjoyed a talk by David Moon about the National Gardens Scheme, superbly illustrated by photographs taken by David, and accompanied by music chosen by him. This was probably the best illustrated talk of the year. The AGM was held in November at The Red House, during which members voted unanimously that the Committee be voted back in - we must be doing something right! This was followed by a meal. December brought the Christmas Quiz; the little grey cells whirled into action, horticultural and general knowledge was tested. 'Result?' the winning team, led by just half a point – a very close call indeed. Much needed refreshments were enjoyed during the break, all in a friendly, sociable, warm atmosphere.

So we move into a new year, with some interesting talks, outings and events at which we look forward to welcoming new members. The annual holiday to Cornwall at the end of April 2016 is fully subscribed.

14 January	Plants for medicinal and culinary purposes – talk by the Gold Club
11 February	Plant Conservation – talk by John Twibell
10 March	"Delightful Gardens near and far" – talk by Mike Webber
14 April	"Birds in Flight – a photographic Adventure" – talk by John Crabb
26-29 April	Annual Club Holiday


Meetings, trips and the annual holiday are all very well supported. New members and visitors are always welcome. We are a friendly lot – why not join us for an enjoyable, sociable evening? You do not need to be good at gardening; talks cover a wide variety of subjects. The annual subscription is £12, with subs of £1 per meeting. Visitors £3. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm in the East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, East Coker.

For further information, please contact Helen Styles 862447 or Stan Shayler 420291.

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EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Having enjoyed a delicious Christmas Dinner at Yeovil Golf Club in December, we now look forward to the New Year's programme. On Thursday, 28 January Mr Francis Watson is talking about Mother of Pearl and bringing some examples with him, and in February the basics of first aid will be explained by Miss Yvonne Love, whilst March sees us being given a practical demonstration in cookery by Mrs Heather Slack.

Meeting on the last Thursday of each month, new members are always welcome to come and see if our meetings are sociable and informative for them.

We also run monthly Whist Drives on the third Thursday of each month, open to beginners as well as regulars, with many prizes to be won.

Wishing all villagers a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Any enquires to the secretary, Ruby Rollo 475010

Diary dates

Thursday 21 January Whist Drive

Thursday 18 February Whist Drive

Thursday 17 March Whist Drive

Thursday 28 January Talk on Mother of Pearl

Thursday 25 February Talk on First Aid

Thursday 31 March Cookery demonstration

All meetings are held at the East Coker Hall all at 7.30pm.

THE EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME – JANUARY 2016

I don't know about you, but I've hardly used any oil yet, then again I do have my reputation as a skinflint to protect. I've just looked 4 January and the price being quoted is 26.95ppl – it just keeps going down. Give it another couple of weeks and our bulk order price may well be less again. On the other hand, goodness knows what the Arabs may get up to. To put it in perspective, in July, 60 of us ordered 57,175 litres at 29.95ppl, and that's the time of year when it used to be at its cheapest!

Before you ask, I just do the donkey-work; collating the requirements, ringing round the suppliers and placing the order and you pay the supplier directly. Please note that with some suppliers the delivery note is also the request for payment and there may be a surcharge if you don't pay promptly. If you have already taken part and found it worthwhile, encourage your friends and neighbours to join in. The more we can order, the better the price.

To participate or with any questions, contact me, preferably by email pauleddwards@waitrose.com, or 864413. Email makes it much easier and quicker to circulate information and I do not divulge email addresses. I circulate an email reminder before co-ordinating each order. Let me know your requirements by 7.00pm on Wednesday 27 January. Please do not ring and ask what the price will be. I will not know it until I have collated the requirements and rung the suppliers.

Do It Now - The More We Buy, the More We Save!

Paul Edwards

THE WINE CIRCLE

The Wine Circle year starts with a Tudor Evening on Saturday 23 January at 7.30pm. Entertainment, fun and festivities are to be had for £8 adults and £6 students. Tickets from Chris Branson – 863555. All are welcome.

On 3 February, we will be having a visit from a member of the Somerset Heritage Centre concerning Wills and Probate.

Wednesday 2 March will see us investigating what we eat with beer...! This will not be good preparation for the 6 April meeting, when we will be hearing how to run a Triathlon!

We're always pleased to welcome new members. Come for an evening and see what you think!

All meetings start at 8.00pm in the East Coker Hall. Any questions to Barrie and Anne Hartley, 862060.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

With typical indomitable spirit of our village of East Coker, another Christmas Lunch proved a great success. The expertise, generosity and endeavours of so many made for a day to be remembered. It somehow traditionally announces the coming of Christmas, and everybody enters into the spirit of this wonderful village event.

My thanks are extended to all who helped in so many ways, with a special mention to Mary and Tony, who continue to support me in this venture and Gye who worked so hard before and on the day to make for a delicious lunch – and finally all of you who came along to enjoy this occasion.

It only remains for me to wish you all a healthy and happy New Year, and to put a date in your diary for 11 December 2016, when we will next meet up to enjoy the onset of the festive season.

With my best wishes and thanks

Di Miskin

EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ 19 MARCH 2016 – BOOK EARLY!

The 11th Annual Village Quiz will be held on Saturday 19 March in East Coker Hall, 7.00pm – 7.30pm. The evening will include a Fish and Chip Supper, and proceeds from the event will be donated to the charities chosen by last year's joint winning teams - Basset Allsorts and the Gardening Club.

This is a popular event, and the number of teams of 8 people is limited by the capacity of the Hall, so it is vital that you book and pay early. Please contact Cherry Sowerbutts on 863313 to reserve your place.

Young People

EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL

As the new head teacher at East Coker Primary School, I would firstly like to say 'Hello and Happy New Year!'

We have had a very busy start to the New Year. I am pleased to say the children have settled in well. They are enjoying being back at school catching up with their friends and are already working very hard.

The teachers have also been working hard over the holiday planning some exciting lessons. During my class visits this week, the children have shown great enthusiasm when attempting an aerobic workout in space following in the steps of Tim Peake. They have been creating 3D art based on the surface of Mars, singing 'Happy Birthday' in French, finding out about the Impressionists and designing their own clown faces for their Circus topic.

In addition to our normal class activities this term, we are looking forward to learning about being safe when using the internet, on 'Internet Safety Day', celebrating the enjoyment of reading through 'World Book Day', and performing in our Spring Concert.

I have come to the understanding over a very short period of time that this is a very busy school and an exciting place in which to learn! It is a privilege to be a part of such a friendly, caring and welcoming school community. I am really excited to be here and am looking forward to working with the school and the local community to ensure a successful future for our children.

Jane Hesketh-Williams
Head Teacher

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

Before Christmas, both the Beavers and Cubs went to Ready2Climb for their last sessions. This venue allows the Beavers and Cubs to climb as many different walls as many times as they like for an hour, then they try caving, a bouncy truck and mini golf. It's great to see a reluctant climber at the start of the evening reaching the top by the end of the session.

This term's programmes have begun already, and whilst the Beavers complete the Emergency Aid Stage 1 badge, the Scouts will be tested on Stage 3.

For the Cubs, it is the 100 Year Celebration since the section was started. Many special activities will be organised for the year and a special badge will be worn on their uniform.

Our numbers continue to be high in all sections, and within the Scouts we now have more girls than boys!

Spring Jumble Sale - Saturday 9 April at East Coker Hall from 2.00pm. **Remember We Will Collect.**
Contact Max Bugler 862186.

Waste Paper Collections

The collection point is opposite the school on the last Saturday of each month, from 8.30am to 10.30am. If possible, please flat-pack your newspapers and tie into bundles.

Saturday 30 January Saturday 27 February Saturday 26 March


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EAST COKER PLAYGROUP – find us on www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk

Happy New Year to everyone, and a big thank you to everyone who supported the Playgroup's Annual Craft Fair in November. Funds raised from the event will go towards providing equipment to broaden the children's outside play opportunities.

Tesco's Farm to Fork initiative did a session at the Playgroup during the term. They brought with them ingredients to show the children what makes bread dough, and provided bread dough for the children to knead. Then there was lots of tasting to do. They kindly bought a mix of food items and fruit to taste, finally finishing the visit off with a dessert recipe the children could take part in making (and eating). Yummy!

The end of term included a lot of glitter, glue, dressing up, singing and fun. Parents and carers were entertained by the children's Nativity Show. Then a lot of fun was had at the end of term party, where a visit from Father Christmas made the day! The children and staff return from the Christmas holiday, refreshed and ready to enjoy the spring term.

The wealth of experience of our fully qualified staff offers quality childcare and education through play, exploring the wider environment and local community with project-based activities. Ofsted have consistently given the group excellent reports and commended us for the interaction and encouragements between staff and children, partnership with parents, teaching, management and the emphasis on fun.

Children can join us from the age of 2½, and Early Years Entitlement is available in the funding period after their third birthday. We are open during term time with sessions every week day morning, and an afternoon session on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch.

If you are seeking childcare for your 2-year old, East Chinnock Under-Fives playgroup accepts children from their 2nd birthday to starting school. For the past few years the staff at East Coker Playgroup also staff East Chinnock Under-Fives Playgroup, and both Playgroups feed into East Coker Primary School. This began when East Chinnock Under-Fives Playgroup was threatened with closure due to staff shortages and has worked to the benefit of both groups, each maintaining their own committee and identity. East

Chinnock Under-Fives Playgroup is a smaller group and this can be a great benefit to the younger children. The opening times are term time with sessions every week day morning, and an afternoon session on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, with optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch. Find us at www.eastchinnockunder5spreschool.co.uk

For more information and to put your child/children on the waiting list for either Playgroup, please contact Kay Strode on 07798 812540.

The Churches

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

I hope you have all enjoyed a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to 2016. It will be a wonderful time for the Coker Ridge Benefice with the arrival of our new rector, Colin Simpson and his family.

Services at St Michaels from 3 January – 13 March 2016		
Date	Service	Vicar/Lay
3 January	Epiphany Sung Eucharist	Rev John Silk
10 January*	Family Eucharist	Rev Tim Horsington
17 January	Eucharist	Rev James Dudley-Smith (rural dean)
24 January	Matins	Richard Middleton
31 January	Benefice	-----
7 February	Eucharist	Tim Horsington
14 February*	Parish Praise	Judith/Jacqueline
21 February	Eucharist	Rev Ann Fulton
28 February	Eucharist	Rev Ann Fulton
29 February	Installation of Rev Colin Simpson at 7pm	
6 March	Mothering Sunday	Judith/Jacqueline
13 March*	Sung Eucharist	Rev John Silk
* On these Sundays there will be an 8.00am Communion led by The Rev Trevor Farmiloe		

Evensong will continue through January and February as before at 6.00pm.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing you at some of our services in the New Year and would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy 2016.

With very best wishes to you all

Judith Shaw, Churchwarden, 863218

Further information about St Michael's can be found at our website www.eastcokerchurch.org.uk

EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

Weekly Meetings Sundays Services 11.00am. Other services as announced. **All** are welcome to **all** of our services.

Coffee Stop The Hall is open each Wednesday from 11.00am until 1.00pm for coffee and tea. There are usually some 10-14 present. Everyone is welcome to come along and it is simply meant to be a place where friends can get together for a chat. There is no charge for the refreshments.

We also run **Home Groups** on alternate Tuesday evenings for anyone who may be interested in discussing the Christian faith. We are currently running a **Discipleship Course** and intend commencing another one shortly. If you are interested in attending please contact Kevin as below.

Little Wheelers Mother and Toddler Group meeting at the East Coker Hall each Tuesday (during term time) from 10.30am - 12.00pm. £2.50 per family to include coffee/tea and cake for the adults (with squash and biscuits for the children). There are also regular Craft activities. Parents and guardians are responsible for their child's welfare.

If you have any queries about the Fellowship or about the Christian faith in general, please have a word with Kevin Chapman. He can be contacted on 07812 726853 or 422594 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk

Alternatively you may wish to look at our website on www.eastcokerchapel.com

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Philippians, Chapter 4 verse 13

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Village News

AUTOMATIC CARDIAC DEFIBRILLATOR – EAST COKER HALL

We are installing a public access Automatic Cardiac Defibrillator in East Coker Hall. This has been jointly funded by the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and Drs Andrew and Sarah Summers.

Cardiac arrest is the ultimate medical emergency. The heart stops pumping followed by unconsciousness and then death quickly follows as the brain is starved of oxygen rich blood.

Very often the heart stops pumping because of "Ventricular fibrillation" which is a state of chaotic electrical impulses within the heart itself, replacing the normal regular rhythm. If an appropriate electric shock can be administered quickly enough the heart can be jolted back into a proper pulse and the patient may recover. There are many examples of people from all age groups who are alive and well because someone had access to a defibrillator and was able to use it in time.

Every year in the UK over 30,000 cardiac arrests occur out of hospital. Without help, the patient will die within minutes but immediate and effective cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can help double their chances of survival. If their heart has stopped because of Ventricular fibrillation, every minute that passes without a Defibrillation shock reduces their chances of survival by 10%.

The East Coker Hall defibrillator is an automatic machine and cannot harm the patient even if they have not had a cardiac arrest. It will be immediately available in the Hall at all times on the wall next to the fire extinguishers to the right of the stage as seen from the auditorium. There are instructions in an adjacent holder. In an emergency, when there is no time to read the notes, remember that if you simply switch on the machine it will begin telling you exactly what to do. If you are unsure, try anyway because the patient has no chance at all if you don't.

You do not need formal training to use this machine but if you would like to be trained, please contact Andrew or Sarah Summers 863144 and we will arrange to meet and go through it with you. We can also demonstrate CPR if you wish.

Andrew and Sarah Summers

*** SAVE THE DATE ***

Coker Festival, Saturday 9 July 2016 at Longlands, East Coker. More information to follow.
www.cokerfestival.co.uk

A 'FOUL' PROBLEM

In November, the main sewer near the East Coker Hall became blocked, causing a surcharge of foul water.

This foul water naturally found its way to the surface water drainage system which empties into the water course beside the Hall. Wessex Water attended the scene and removed the blockage

Obviously foul water surcharge is not just a hazard to the environment but also to human health.

Could all Parishioners be reminded that standard toilet paper should be the only manufactured product disposed of down the toilet. Kitchen paper and baby wipes, amongst other things, should all be disposed of in the bin (kitchen paper can be recycled in your kitchen waste).

Many thanks, Matt Horsley

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 *Building Regulations Part P Compliant* 

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY – IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL LIBRARY USERS

Somerset County Council has agreed to reinstate the mobile library service to the village.

The dates and times of the 2016 visits to the Helyar Arms are on a Tuesday between 1.45pm – 2.00pm

12 January 9 February 8 March

The Council state, however, that future visits will be reviewed where there is 'little or no usage', and it is essential that this stop is well used by the local community.

PLEASE use this service to the village otherwise it will be lost and any subsequent protests will fall on deaf ears!

Mike Weston

HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING & REFUSE COLLECTIONS – EASTER AND MAY BANK HOLIDAYS

Easter collections one day later from Good Friday 25 March. Early May Bank holiday (Monday 2 May), all collections one day later. Spring Bank Holiday (Monday 30 May), all collections one day later.

STAMPS FOR C.L.I.C.\SARGENT (Cancer & Leukaemia in Children)

A very big 'thank you' to everyone who saves their used stamps, a huge bagful has just been received by the charity.

The Courtyard Café will now accept them, so please save all your stamps for this worthy cause as they are reused to make money for this charity, which funds vital research into childhood cancers.

British Summer Time begins Sunday 27 March – clocks go forward one hour.



EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

The **Christmas Eve Carols** were a great success and thanks go to everybody who provided the tree, the electricity and helped on the night. £132.81 was raised for Save the Children. Thank you for donating so generously. The carols were followed by mince pies and mulled wine at The Helyar Arms, which is under new management, Claire and Patrick Nobbs. *See above in the Newsletter.*

Grant Aids are available from the East Coker Parish Council for the benefit of East Coker Parishioners. If you have a parish group which would benefit, please email the Clerk for further details.

New **Fun Time** weekly 2-hour activity sessions, for ages 5 to 11, will start up again in the Spring. Further details will be posted soon.

The Council will be holding a **Parishioner Open Day** on **Saturday 21 May**, for you to come and meet your Parish Council and discuss any issues you may have. Refreshments will be provided.

It is with sadness we say good bye to our **Village Ranger** Matthew, who has had to leave the council ranger scheme due to ill-health. We would all like to thank him for his hard work in keeping our village neat and tidy and wish him well. Just before Christmas, Connor joined the team and has done a couple of days work for us, with very pleasing results. Please make him feel welcome in the village, and if he is working outside your house I am sure a cup of tea would always be appreciated.

If you notice any jobs that need doing around the parish please contact Bridget Sugg on 863435 mob 07907 621106 before 6.00pm.

New benches for the Pavilion and play area will be installed in early 2016. Drain jetting is also being scheduled, to avoid further flooding.

Due to the adverse weather we are having would you please secure all **recycling** on collection day, to ensure it doesn't get blown around the Parish, thank you.

Councillors' contact details are on our website, www.eastcokerparish.com. The Parish Clerk can be reached on 01998 864354 or email clerk@eastcokerparish.com.

SAVE THE DATES

- Saturday 19 March, 2016 **Neighbourhood Plan Update 'drop-in-day' in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall 11.00am – 2.00pm.**
- Saturday 21 May 2016 - **Parish Council Parishioner Open Day, times to be confirmed.**

EAST COKER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE JANUARY 2016

Work has progressed over the past months on the continuation of the East Coker Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan Group has taken account of views expressed by the local community, through resident and business questionnaires and as a result of the very successful consultation event that was held in the East Coker Hall on 10 October 2015, when over 150 local people attended and provided an excellent input into the Plan's development.

The Group is also engaging with the District and County Councils, as well as other agencies such as Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency.

Work has progressed on the writing of policies, based on the vision and objectives that were outlined at the October event and which received good public support. These deal with all the subject matters addressed in the Plan, such as housing, employment and business, community facilities, the built and natural environment and transport and infrastructure. The policies in the Plan have generally to conform to both the National Planning Policy Framework and the South Somerset Local Plan.

A schedule of projects and actions is also being drawn up to go with the Plan, based on ideas put forward by the community.

Before the Plan is submitted to South Somerset District Council and then published for formal public consultation, the Group believe it is important that the community is consulted again on the working draft of the Neighbourhood Plan, with a view to ensuring that there is a broad consensus of support for the plan and its policies.

There will therefore be another more informal Community Consultation event on **Saturday 19 March, 11.00am – 2.00pm in the Dampier Room, at the East Coker Hall**, when copies of the Draft Plan, the policies and other information will be displayed and the East Coker Neighbourhood Plan Group will be on hand to answer questions.

In due course, the Plan has to be 'Examined' by an independent Planning Inspector and also subject to a local Referendum when over 50% of those voting have to support the Plan, for it to be finally adopted or 'Made'. This does all take time, but the Plan will then be used by both the Parish and District Councils to help determine planning applications within the Parish. The Neighbourhood Plan will then be part of the overall 'Development Plan' for the area.

So please make a note of the next consultation event in your diary now!

East Coker Neighbourhood Plan Group, January 2016

NEXT ISSUE

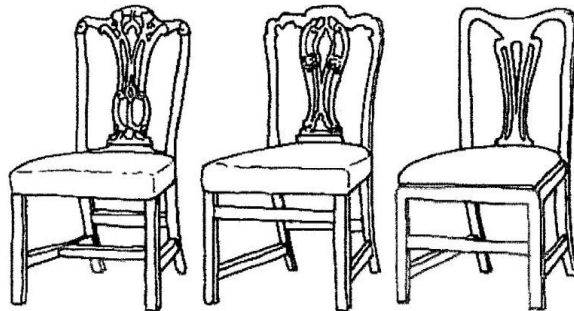
The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **April 2016**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail l.lindsay@eastcoker.com, by **Tuesday 22 March 2016**



Instead of stacking their waste bags on top of the bin and creating an eyesore in the countryside (see photo above), please could dog-walkers take them to another bin or home and report it to the Council to get the bin emptied!

KEN MARSH

u p h o l s t e r y



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Thurs 14 Jan	Gardening Club – Talk by Gold Club	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 18 Jan	Time To Share – Music	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 21 Jan	W.I. – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 23 Jan	Wine Circle – Tudor Evening	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 28 Jan	W.I. – Talk about Mother of Pearl	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 29 Jan	Coffee Morning – Help for Heroes	10.00am -12.00pm	The Forester's
Sat 30 Jan	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the school
Mon 1 Feb	Time To Share – A Vet's Life	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 3 Feb	Wine Circle – Talk on Wills and Probate	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 9 Feb	Library	1.45pm – 2.00pm	The Helyar Arms
Thurs 11 Feb	Gardening Club – Plant Conservation	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 13 Feb	Film Flix – Suffragette	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 14 Feb	Valentine's Brunch	9.30am – 12.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 15 Feb	Time To Share – Tai Chi	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 18 Feb	W.I. – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 25 Feb	W.I. – First Aid	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 26 Feb	Coffee Morning - Lifeboats	10.00am – 12.00pm	The Forester's
Sat 27 Feb	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the school
Mon 29 Feb	Time to Share – Take Note	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 2 Mar	Wine Circle – What to eat with beer	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 8 Mar	Library	1.45pm – 2.00pm	The Helyar Arms
Thurs 10 Mar	Gardening Club – Delightful Gardens	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 14 Mar	Time To Share – Musical Memories	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 17 Mar	W.I. – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 19 Mar	Village Quiz	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 19 Mar	Parish Council – Neighbour Plan Update	11.00am – 2.00pm	Dampier Room
Mon 21 Mar	Time To Share – Easter Bazaar	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 22 Mar	Copy for April Newsletter		
Sat 26 Mar	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the school
Sun 27 Mar	British Summer Time begins		
Thurs 31 Mar	W.I. – Cookery Demonstration	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 4 April	Time To Share – Top Food Tips	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 6 April	Wine Circle – How to run a Triathlon	8.00pm	East Coker Hall